

european chairs assembly

Meetings & partings

Sadly, but appreciatively, we said goodbye to Chairs handing on their responsibility. Farewell Jvalamalini, Amalamati, Visuddhimati, Maitridasa, Danapriya, Jnanacandra...but hello Bhadra, Satyajyoti, Kamalagita!

We also said goodbye to Mokshini from Development Team (and hello to Aparajita) & Rijupatha from Buddhist Centre online.

Home groups

Everyone valued having slightly smaller groups (about 6 in each) which was more intimate, and which met throughout the meeting, creating deeper bonds

Dharmic input

As requested at the January meeting, there was quality input from Saddhaloka and 3 Chairs exploring the 8-point Mind Training verses. This was then discussed in the home groups.

Happily this theme will form the basis of the International Practice Week in September.



Excellence in our Centres

This was the overarching theme for this ECA and was kicked off in style by Sanghanishta, the Padmoloka Chair.

Here he is setting the bar high...

3 other Chairs (Singhamati, Bodhivamsa & Maniraja) also gave 15-minute talks on how they strive for excellence in their work.





Fishbowl

Also new was an experimental use of the 'fishbowl', a sort of public conversation as a way of opening out the theme of excellence and follow themes from Sanghanisthta's talk.

A day with the College

Maitreyabandhu invited discussion on unity and coherence in the Order and movement, how to cultivate that, and then communicate that to others.

Dhammarati spoke about the Sikkha Project which is trying to facilitate excellence in teaching at our centres, based on a clear, pragmatic system of practice, effective at every level, capable of development but founded on Bhante's presentation of the Dharma.

Soon the Sikkha Project's home on the Buddhist Centre online will be launched, full of excellent resources.

Post-introductory materials will also be developed soon.

Later, Saddhaloka shared news from the College and the scope of their responsibilities. A paper will be shared soon detailing this.

Open Space

Another new approach, facilitated by Jnanacandra, this was an opportunity to self-generate topics for discussion.

Topics that were taken up included: owning power and authority; an integrated communications strategy; trans and gender diversity; increasing ethnic diversity in our Sangha; the Dana economy - very popular and we'll do more of these in future.



What else?

As well as catching up in glorious weather, we also had presentations from Mahamati on the Presidential system, Clear Vision, the International Council, Munisha in her safeguarding role, Future Dharma, Rijupatha on the Buddhist Centre online, Sanghadeva and Vajragupta on pioneering and groups, Centre presentations on Adelaide and Ecodharma, and an effective review of the meeting at the end!

Somehow, we also managed to do the necessary 'business' required by our charitable status (budget agreements etc)!